

SENATE BILL 2549

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 63, Part 1; Title 38 and Title 55, relative to traffic stops.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38, Chapter 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A law enforcement officer who is conducting a traffic stop of a motor vehicle with reasonable suspicion that the vehicle driver has committed a traffic violation punishable by a citation in lieu of arrest under title 7, chapter 63, part 1, or a criminal offense punishable by a traffic citation in lieu of arrest under § 55-10-207, shall take reasonable steps to ensure that the traffic stop occurs in a safe location.

(b) As used in this section, a "safe location":

(1) Means a location that protects both the officer and motorist from passing vehicles by providing sufficient space for the free passage of other vehicles and sufficient visibility of the stopped vehicles;

(2) Includes a parking lot, public or private driveway, or full shoulder of a highway that can accommodate the stopped vehicles without obstructing the main-traveled part of the highway; and

(3) Does not include the main-traveled part of the highway or the paved or unpaved portion of an entrance or exit ramp of a highway.

(c) This section does not apply to traffic stops for suspected violations of § 55-10-401 or in an emergency situation.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.